



**King County**

Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
Solid Waste Division

May 2004

# Class Act

## Schedule Now for Fall Programs

Find details at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/schoolpg.htm>.

Look for your Waste Busters brochure in the mail or go to <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/second/second.htm> and sign up now for fall.



Colorful sets and costumes are among the features of the King County Solid Waste Division's assemblies.

## New Elementary Assembly Coming This Fall!

Sign up now for King County's newest assembly on recycling, reducing waste, and creating a sustainability environment. Students will learn how their actions can affect the environment and what they can do to reduce their "footprint" on the earth. With the usual humor, interaction, and general zaniness, the assembly will motivate teachers and students to improve your school's environment. Primary and intermediate presentations are offered to the first 50 schools that schedule. Call 206-583-0655 or email [workshops@triangleassociates.com](mailto:workshops@triangleassociates.com) for more information. ♦

## Interactive, Thought-Provoking Classroom Workshops Available for Middle or High School Classes

Schedule now for next fall's secondary classroom workshops:

- ♦ **Biodiversity in Our World** is a hands-on, activity-based workshop that explores what biodiversity is and why it is important for the survival of life on Earth. Rotating through activity stations, students explore topics of habitat destruction, population growth, pollution and over-consumption, and how individual choices can affect us and the health of our planet.
- ♦ **Earth Impact: Over-Consumption or Sustainability?** teaches students about the problems of over-consumption and how our everyday choices can have a profound impact on Earth's ecosystems. Students learn about their "ecological footprint" and how advertising affects our consumption habits. Most importantly, students learn how to make more sustainable choices to protect our planet's natural resources.

Both workshops integrate Essential Academic Learning Requirements including communications, science, geography and reading. Each workshop runs 50-75

minutes and is presented in your classroom for up to five class periods per teacher. To schedule a presentation, contact Andrea Petzel at (206) 583-0655 or email [workshops@triangleassociates.com](mailto:workshops@triangleassociates.com). ♦



Students rotate through stations and solve problems during the workshops

## Bellevue High School: Message in a Bottle



*Strategically placed containers at Bellevue High School remind students to recycle.*

Bellevue High School, as part of the King County Green Schools Program with additional funding from the National Association for PET Container Resources, initiated a highly-visible program to recycle the 4,666 plastic bottles and aluminum cans generated in the school each month. Placing bottle-shaped containers throughout the school encourages students to recycle their bottles and cans. Volunteer and Earth Hero Gary Hartness helps make the program a success, and students who help empty the containers for recycling receive community service hours.

As of April 2004, Bellevue High recycled about 31% of its plastic bottles compared to the previous estimated recycling rate of 10%. Participation levels are growing and contamination remains surprising low.

**The King County Green Schools Program** is now accepting applications from school districts and individual schools (both public and private) for the 2004-05 school year. The program description and application forms can be found on the web site at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/greenschools>. ♦

## Three Partners Work Together to Improve Bellevue School Recycling

This school year, King County, City of Bellevue and Bellevue School District teamed up to help seventeen Bellevue schools improve their recycling practices. Many schools started printer cartridge recycling programs and are now getting paid for their used cartridges. Five schools started milk carton recycling programs and five started can or plastic bottle recycling programs. In addition, the partnership:

- ♦ Designed and distributed "Recycling Dos and Don'ts" signs. Over 800

signs were placed near recycling bins in classrooms, offices and common areas.

- ♦ Designed and placed over 100 signs for milk carton and plastic bottle/can recycling.
- ♦ Purchased and distributed sixty-four 32-gallon containers for milk carton and plastic bottle/can recycling.
- ♦ Placed 86 recycling containers in classrooms and offices that did not have any recycling containers.
- ♦ Introduced and provided 13 "double dollies" to schools to enable their

custodians to collect garbage and recycling on the same cycle.

These changes were the result of follow-up to waste audits conducted by King County last year at ten elementary schools and seven secondary schools.

For more information about King County's Green Schools or School Recycling and Waste Reduction Assistance Program, contact Dale Alekel at 206-296-8457 or [dale.alekel@metrokc.gov](mailto:dale.alekel@metrokc.gov). ♦

## Lessons on Hazardous Products Go Home

- ♦ **Jeanine Sieler and Mark Morrow, Bellevue High School** chemistry teachers, had their students complete home product surveys with their parents in order to discover how many potentially hazardous products they have in their homes. The students then invited their parents to an evening presentation where they helped teach their parents to identify hazardous products, dispose of them properly, and use safer alternatives.

- ♦ **Susan Coluccio, Seattle Preparatory High School** chemistry teacher, taught five lessons from

Hazards on the Homefront and then had her students use their knowledge to educate their parents and peers. The students created tri-fold displays on hazardous products, chemical



*Student studies label with mom.*

components and safer alternatives. Through their research and presentations, the students were able to make a connection between the products they have in their home and the potential impact these items have on their health and the environment.

- ♦ Students of **Barb McGrath, fourth-grade teacher at Our Lady of the Lake School**, sponsored a booth at the school science fair that had visitors test safer alternative cleaning products. Students also created brochures with recipes for safer alternatives to chemical cleaners. ♦



## Award Winning Green Teams

King County recognized the efforts of these Green Teams in reducing waste and improving the environment in our county. Green Teams that take on classroom and schoolwide projects receive water bottles, pencils, tote bags, and/or certificates in recognition of the extra effort they have made in taking care of our planet. For a complete list of Green Team winners go to <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swdl/schoolpr/elem/update.htm>

**Mamiko Morishita's Enatai Elementary Green Team** of six special education students collects and empties the recycling containers throughout the school. Taking on this responsibility has helped the students become more aware of their environment, get to know school staff, and learn general life skills.

**Mary Anne Engnell's fourth-grade Green Team at Hazel Valley Elementary** learned about and set up a worm bin for composting food waste. The students then helped the second-grade classes set up worm bins. Ms. Engnell reported that her students are now more aware of recycling and waste reduction and also feel "more connected with the second graders and more confident as leaders."

**Shelly Landschulz's sixth-grade Green Team at Syre Elementary** learned the proper way to recycle and then shared this information with the whole school. Their projects included posters with specific guidelines for every classroom, commercials for the school TV station, re-use scrap boxes



*Nancy Riedel of Kent Elementary was honored as an Earth Hero at School for inspiring and leading her students to restore a neglected area of their school grounds. Their study of soil composition, native plants, and pesticide free gardening was a follow-up to learning about safer alternatives to household hazardous products.*

for all classrooms, and a school-wide recycling contest. Ms. Landschulz reports that the teachers now recycle in their lounge, the students put less paper into the trash cans, and the whole student body views her Green Team as an important school resource.

**At Lea Hill Elementary, Mary Mondt's sixth-grade Green Team** completed numerous seasonal waste reduction and reuse projects. In the fall they turned milk cartons into bird feeders and Halloween masks. During the holidays, they collected all sizes of aluminum cans for snowmen. In April, they helped promote all-school awareness of Earth Month by painting a huge Earth Hero mural, distributing hundreds of grocery bags for the entire school to decorate with waste reduction and recycling messages, and picking up school litter.

All of the students at **Evergreen**

**Academy** dedicated time this year to design, build and maintain their own classroom gardens. This project helped to create habitat for birds and insects in the area and increased student understanding of the natural environment. **Sheila Giaudrone's fourth-grade Green Team** took the lead in raising salmon and organizing the entire school's participation in the release of the salmon into a local creek.

**Mary McFaul's fifth-grade Green Team members at Christian Faith Academy** are expert re-users. Instead of just recycling used paper, this class uses their paper again for scratch drawing paper, cards and even classroom journals.

**Kate Berten's sixth-grade Green Team at Ben Franklin Elementary** is tackling waste reduction and recycling from several angles. First, they started a classroom worm bin to cut down on waste from snacks and lunch scraps. Then they learned about recyclables and contaminants and launched a promotional campaign at the school. This Green Team has helped the school expand its recycling to include cans and plastic bottles. They plan to take on lunchroom milk carton recycling next.

**April Stephens's Maple Hills Elementary Green Team** of Student Council representatives split into groups to create skits and Powerpoint presentations on recycling for each classroom in the school in honor of Earth Day. ♦

**Look for more amazing school projects in the Earth Heroes at School project descriptions.**

## Professional Development This Summer

**Teacher Workshops June 24 and August 17-18.**

Are you looking for lesson plans that use real life examples to relate science, health, and environmental issues to students' everyday choices?

Since 1993 educators throughout King County have been teaching their students to read labels, choose safer alternatives, and properly dispose of household hazardous products (HHW) as a result of the Hazards on the Homefront teacher workshops. Designed by teachers for teachers, this hands-on workshop and guide use a variety of engaging learning styles to address HHW as well as the types of questions on

the science WASL test. Moreover, this subject provides specific knowledge and actions directly related to the new health and fitness standards.

In addition to free training, teachers who attend these workshops receive ready-to-use lesson plans, overheads, student handouts and a free Green Cleaning Kit. Clock hours or college credit and a stipend are available for certified King County teachers on completion of workshop objectives. All workshop participants will have the opportunity to take a guided tour of the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Renton and see firsthand the connection of HHW to our everyday lives.

*"This was a great workshop--one that was well worth the time. The materials given to teachers are relevant and can be used even with modifications. I look forward to seeing where I'll implement some of these activities into my classes. Thanks for the opportunity."*

— High school  
biology/chemistry teacher



*Teachers try out experiments they can use with their students*

Full-day workshops for teachers grades 4-12 are offered Thursday, June 24th at the South Wastewater Treatment Plant or Tuesday, August 17th at the Kohlwe Education Center in Renton. To register, contact Darcie Garland-Renn at (206) 583-0655 x25 or by email: [workshops@triangleassociates.com](mailto:workshops@triangleassociates.com). See the website for additional workshop details or to download a registration form: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/SCHOOLPR/hhw/teacher.htm>. ♦

**For more details on these and other programs,  
visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/schoolpg.htm>**



### King County

Department of  
Natural Resources and Parks  
**Solid Waste Division**  
King Street Center, Suite 701  
201 S. Jackson St.  
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

**— PASS IT ON —**  
**When you are done**  
**with this issue,**  
**pass it on to**  
**someone else who**  
**may be interested.**



Printed on recycled paper